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Rationalization of existing United Nations procedures

1. In order to facilitate the adoption of resolutions and decisions by the General Assembly whenever possible without a vote, informal consultations should be carried out with the widest possible participation of Member States.*

2. When an electronic voting system is available for recording how votes were cast, a roll-call vote should as far as possible not be requested.**

3. Before the end of each General Assembly session, the General Committee should, in the light of the experience it has acquired during that session, draw up its observations on the organization of the work of the session, in order to facilitate the organization of the work of future sessions of the General Assembly.**

4. The agenda of the General Assembly should be simplified by grouping or merging, to the extent possible, related items and, where appropriate,*** by setting an interval of two or more years for the discussion of certain items. The President of the General Assembly, and, as appropriate, the Chairman of the Main Committee concerned, should undertake consultations with interested delegations with a view to achieving agreement to this end.

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* Provisionally adopted in 1988.

** Provisionally adopted in 1989.

*** Amendments or additions are underlined; deletions are indicated by "...".

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5. The General Committee should consider, at the beginning of each session of the General Assembly, recommending that certain Main Committees should meet in sequential order, taking into account such matters as the number of meetings required for the consideration of the questions with which they are charged at that session and the organization of the work of the whole session [...].

6. In making recommendations as to how agenda items should be allocated to the Main Committees and the plenary of the General Assembly [...], the General Committee should ensure the best use of the expertise of the Committees [...].

7. Each Main Committee should consider having a Chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur in order that a member of each regional group might be present on the Bureau with a view to facilitating the organization of the work.

8. When the General Assembly considers whether it needs to establish subsidiary organs, in accordance with Article 22 of the Charter, it should give careful consideration as to whether the subject-matter in question could be dealt with by existing organs, including its Main Committees and their working groups. [...] The General Assembly should monitor on a continuing basis the need for subsidiary organs.

9. The dates and length of the sessions of bodies of the General Assembly that meet inter-sessionally should be determined as soon as possible by the General Assembly, as appropriate, following advice from the Committee on Conferences, on the proposal of the Secretary-General. The Assembly should take account of the available facilities and [...] resources, past experience, the state of current work in regard to the mandate given to the body in question and the need to avoid as far as possible overlapping meetings of bodies which deal with subject-matter of a similar nature.

10. Consultations between members, and where appropriate observers, of bodies of the General Assembly that meet inter-sessionally should be held in advance of the sessions of such bodies in order to facilitate the conduct of their sessions, especially as regards the composition of the Bureau and the organization of work.

11. United Nations bodies should meet at their respective headquarters, unless there are substantial reasons for their meeting elsewhere. [...]

12. Efforts should be made to reduce the number of decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in order to enhance their authority and to promote adequate consideration of the issues involved, taking into account the grouping of agenda items. As a rule, resolutions should not request observations from States or reports by the Secretary-General unless they are necessary to facilitate the implementation of the resolutions or the continued examination of the question.